

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday September 8, 2015 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:02 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Vincent Yanni, Jr., Maureen Crick Owen, PJ Yochum, Warren Spencer

Absent: Patrick Barczak, Thomas DiNicola

Staff Present: Amy Mangold

Absent: Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Karen Franzen, Chris Peck

Public Participation:

Karen Franzen and Chris Peck, (CCAP) the Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program

Ms. Franzen and Mr. Peck came before the commission to request a location in town to hold two practices a week. CCAP is a regional youth cyclo-cross team. The participants compete and flourish in cycling, in a team based setting, and travel to local and regional cycling events. The team is made up of boys and girls ages 9 to 18 years old. The fee is \$299.00; this includes a jersey and racing license. There are 8 races per season, which are held on the weekends at various venues across Connecticut. The league is reaching out to schools and towns to start regional clubs. There are currently 6 regional teams in Connecticut. Every team has a licensed coach that has had a background check. Each team is limited to 12 kids and at this time they have 8 signed up for the Newtown team. Ms. Franzen explained to the commission that the CCAP is a non-profit organization and received their 501(c)3 in 2013. The CCAP would like to hold their first practice in Newtown, Thursday September 10, 2015. Ms. Franzen and Mr. Peck are requesting a practice area behind the Newtown Youth Academy on the trail and grassy area. Mr. Peck provided a map of the suggested area. CCAP is looking to practice from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm two nights a week. The practices would consist of safety discussions and drills. Director of Parks and Recreation Amy Mangold expressed her concern with the location. Ms. Mangold explained that there is a 10 mph limit on the trails and the trails are heavily used by walkers/runners. Chairman Marks explained that Parks and Recreation maintains the trails, but not grassy area behind the NYA and that Parks and Recreation has never scheduled any events on the trails. In order to use the grassy area the CCAP would need to get permission from the Fairfield Hills Authority and Land Conservation. There was a suggestion of possibly Orchard Hill, because of the off road surface might be conducive to the type of off road biking they are looking for. Mr. Peck inquired if there were any other possible practice areas in Newtown. It was suggested that Ms. Franzen and Mr. Peck look at the trails in Dickinson Park. Ms. Franzen inquired if the CCAP would need to put up signs in order to give the public notice that there was

a CCAP practice going on. Chairman Marks suggested that they post a sign stating to *use caution that there was a practice in session*, during practices. Mr. Marks continued by stating that this seemed like a good program and a good way to introduce biking events in Newtown. Ms. Mangold requested that they send in the rooster and fees. According to the Field/Regulations Manual the field usage fee, is a surcharge of \$20 per Newtown resident participant and \$40 per non Newtown participant.

Motion

Commissioner PJ Yochum made a motion to allow the CCAP use of Dickinson Park trails for practice twice a week, for one and a half hours per practice, for the fall season thru December. Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Acceptance of August 11, 2015 Minutes was tabled until October 13, 2015 commission meeting.

Correspondence:

Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Edward Marks explained to the commission that he and Director of Parks and Recreation Amy Mangold were going to attend a First Selectman's meeting, scheduled for September 10, 2015. The two were going to present the annual report as well as discuss the *Long Term CIP list*. The commission had compiled a *Long Term CIP Project List* of 20 items at the July 2, 2015 meeting and was asked to prioritize the list and submit their individual list to Secretary Gabriella Chernoff. The compiled lists will be tallied and used at Selectmen's meeting.
- Chairman Marks had been in touch with Kyle Lyddy regarding the maintenance of a permanent memorial and Mr. Lyddy is aware that there needs to be a maintenance program in place as well as a budget.

Director's Report:

- Director Amy Mangold completed a survey for the Torpedoes Swim Team and was happy with the results. Overall, the families are happy with the swim team and Ms. Mangold was able to use the results to suggest some minor changes.
- To date 15 out of 26 memorial benches have been installed. Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen, which is also the President of the Newtown Village Cemetery Association, talked to the cemetery board and is offering a designated area of the cemetery for benches, if one would like to place one there.
- Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson was absent from the commission meeting, so Director Amy Mangold presented on his behalf. The parks department staff was down 4 workers all summer, due to injuries and illnesses. At this time, one of the workers is not returning to the Parks Department. The job has been posted and they have had many

applicants. Chairman Marks had suggested in the future, if we are short staffed, to possibly hiring temps.

- Assistant Director of Recreation RoseAnn Reggiano was absent from the commission meeting, so Director Mangold presented on her behalf.
 1. Mad Dash held on June 13, 2015, raised \$3,832.58; for the *Camp Scholarship Fund*.
 2. Rooster Run held on June 20, 2015, raised \$2,470.00; for the *Newtown Scholarship*.
 3. Overall summer camps went well.
 - A. The summer Day Camp this past summer was amazing. The site and assistant site directors did an awesome job.
 - B. Treadwell Day Camp had an 81% increase of campers, from 337 last year to 610 campers this year.
 - C. Dickinson Day Camp remained the same as last year.
 - D. The talent show at the end of the year was the “Best Ever”
 4. The Teen Adventure Camp doubled over last year from 60 to 122 campers.
 5. The biggest success program this past summer was the *Coding in Minecraft*.

Two classes were added to accommodate the demand.

6. There was an introduction to Pickle Ball on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at Treadwell Park, which was well attended. Ms. Reggiano wanted to send a big thank you to Jan Brown, for assisting in organizing this event.

7. The Fall Brochure has been completed and fall programing is getting ready to start. Some new and exciting programs this fall, including: knockerball; stand up paddling; and 3D Sculpture class, which is being co-sponsored with Newtown Cultural Arts.

8. *End of Summer Skate Park Fundraiser* at the skate park is Sunday, September 27, 2015, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm. This event is being organized by Tom Capozziello.

9. Halloween parties for grades 5th and 6th will be on Friday, October 23, 2015; and age 8 and under will be on Thursday, October 29, 2015. The Howl O ween party is tentatively scheduled for the morning of Saturday, October 31, 2015.

Old Business:

New Business:

None

Commissioners Out and About:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. was in Southbury and saw the band shell at the Green. There was live entertainment and people were camped out listening to music.

Chairman Edward Marks mentioned that he had seen a band truck, where everything is contained within the truck and drives from event to event.

Motion:

Adjournment:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner PJ Yochum, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk